

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

The invention relates to a process for the recovery of a macrolide in substantial pure form comprising including:

- a) ~~treatment of~~ treating an impure or crude macrolide with water immiscible solvent to form a mixture,
- b) optionally ~~concentration of~~ concentrating the mixture,
- c) ~~treating treatment~~-with ammonia gas to phase out impurities,
- d) ~~separation of~~ separating impurities,
- e) optionally ~~concentration~~ concentrating of the a phase containing the macrolide,
- f) loading on silica gel chromatography, optionally reversed phase or pretreated with silver, and ~~elution of~~ eluting the macrolide,
- g) affording the macrolide in the substantially pure form,
- h) optional repetition of ~~step-stes~~ f and g to afford the macrolide in the substantially pure form. The macrolide is preferably tacrolimus, immunomycin or sirolimus.